



Lead Update

RI Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

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Issue:

5

In This Issue

- Updated Lead Screening Guidelines now available!
- 2007 Data Supplement for Core Cities issued
- Don't Spread Lead Campaign in Rhode Island
- Healthy Housing Briefing for District Court

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program www.health.ri.gov/lead

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Updated Lead Screening Guidelines now available

Rhode Island's Lead Screening Guidelines were updated to be consistent with the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. The updated Guidelines recommend that every child be given a blood lead test at one and two years of age. If either of these blood lead tests is greater than or equal to 10 µg/dL, annual screening should continue until the age of six. If both of the blood lead tests are below 10 µg/dL, the pediatrician can use the Risk Assessment Questionnaire instead of a blood lead test, until the age of six.

The Guidelines are available in poster-size and pocket-size versions and will be distributed to hundreds of healthcare providers, healthcare professionals, and other interested organizations that serve children. The Guidelines are also available online at www.health.ri.gov/lead/family/providers.

For questions on the screening guidelines or to request additional materials, please contact us at 222.4634.

2007 Data Supplement for Core Cities issued

In October 2007 the Lead Program issued the Core City supplement to *Childhood Lead Poisoning in Rhode Island: The Numbers*, 2007 Edition. The report contains data on Rhode Island's six cities where the child poverty level is greater than 15%. The core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Providence, Pawtucket, West Warwick, and Woonsocket.

In the report, lead data for the core cities are compared to data for the rest of the state. Some highlights are included below:

- Core cities are key to eliminating lead poisoning; 387 (77%) of the 500 children who were lead poisoned for the first time in 2006 were living in the core cities.
- Rhode Island's healthcare providers do an excellent job of screening their clients for lead, especially in core cities. Statewide, about 70% of 18-month-old children are screened for lead at least once, while in the core cities that proportion is 75%.

The report is available online at www.health.ri.gov/lead/databook/corecities2007.pdf.

For any questions related to this report, please contact Daniela Quilliam at Daniela.Quilliam@health.ri.gov.

"Don't Spread Lead" Campaign in Rhode Island

The New England Lead Coordinating Committee (NELCC), a regional consortium of state agencies working to eliminate lead poisoning, has developed materials that carry an important message for do-it-yourselfers working on homes built before 1978: "Don't Spread Lead." The materials include a brochure and a DVD that demonstrates how to do renovations using lead-safe work practices. A complete booklet with detailed instructions will soon be available.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is promoting this campaign in Rhode Island. This effort involves the distribution of the DVD, posters, postcards, and brochures to a variety of businesses and community organizations asking for their help in disseminating the campaign's message "Don't Spread Lead." The promotional materials will instruct people to call the HEALTH Information Line at 1.800.942.7434 to request a copy of the DVD (English and Spanish).

For additional questions about the "Don't Spread Lead" materials and campaign efforts in Rhode Island, contact us at 1.800.942.7434.

For information about the requirements of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Law, please visit www.hrc.ri.gov or call 222.5323.

Healthy Housing Briefing for District Court Judges

This September, the RI Department of Health and RI Legal Services met with judges from the District Court to brief them on the meaning of healthy housing, its importance to the health of RI residents, and how the legal system could promote healthier housing conditions in the state.

Approximately a dozen judges attended the briefing and were given a resource binder with a list of the most common environmental hazards that affect the home: asbestos, carbon monoxide, cockroaches, dust mites, lead paint, mold, pesticides, radon, and rodents. The resource guide also included fact sheets for each of those hazards, a comprehensive list of Rhode Island laws that promote healthy housing conditions (such as landlord tenant laws and minimum housing codes), and a useful glossary of terms.

The Healthy Housing briefing was well received and fostered interesting discussions in the group about the challenges that affect the housing and legal system. The gathering of District Court judges was the first key constituency that the Healthy Housing Collaborative reached out to with the message of health and housing.

Healthy Housing Will Be a Permanent Topic in Future Editions

The RI Department of Health is committed to developing healthy housing strategies that go beyond the problem of lead.

A discussion of these strategies will appear in the **Healthy Housing Section** of the Lead Update, and will include activities of the Department's Healthy Housing Steering Committee and the Healthy Housing Collaborative.

For suggestions on future content of this section, please contact Magaly.Angeloni@health.ri.gov.